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7 September 1949

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Visit of Abdullah to Spain

The visit of King Abdullah of Jordan to Spain has few great international implications. It does, however, offer both rulers a convenient opportunity to discuss matters of common interest and possibly improve their prestige with their own peoples. Inasmuch as both Spain and Jordan have been barred from UN membership by Soviet vetoes, their rulers can be expected to fulminate against the USSR, and Abdullah may well presume to set himself up as the champion of anti-communism in the Near East as Franco has done in Eastern Europe. Through his cordiality to Abdullah, which is the culmination of his long-standing policy designed to establish closer relations with the Arab states, Franco probably hopes to impress the nearly 1,000,000 Moslem Arabs in Spanish Morocco. The Moroccans, however, have long since lost faith in the ability of the Arab League, much less one of its component members, to support their nationalist ambitions. Although the son of the Sultan of Morocco is expected to be in Madrid during Abdullah's visit, it is unlikely that a meeting between the two, if held, would accomplish anything. Abdullah, by posing as representative of all the Arabs of the Near East, can reinforce his pretensions to Arab leadership, but the other Arab governments are unlikely to be much impressed.

On a more practical basis, the visit may publicize the tendency of the Arab states and the Latin bloc to support each other in the UN.

their meeting, in spite of their pretensions, will have little effect on significant issues outside their own countries. It is even doubtful that their own subjects will take the meeting too seriously, although the Spanish will enjoy the opportunity occasioned by Abdullah's visit to indulge in fiestas.

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Text approved by AD/ORE in draft.
Signed and forwarded in absence
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Distribution: G/SI, B/NE, B/NE, B/No, IOG, AD/ORE

Approved For Release 2009/01/29 : CIA-RDP67-00059A000400020009-6